

AMENDMENTS

In the Specification

Please amend the specification at pages 4 and 5 by replacing the paragraph bridging those two pages with the following. Changes from the previously entered amendment are shown in mark-up, with strike-throughs indicating deletions and underlines indicating insertions:

Initially, the weld-on part is pre-treated via known etching techniques to strip away aluminum oxides and thereby expose an aluminum or aluminum alloy surface. The titanium containing material is formed upon exposed aluminum or aluminum alloy portion of the weld-on part by immersing the part in an ~~a non-phosphating~~ acidic solution including a concentration of titanium ions and, preferably, a chromium free acidic solution containing titanium ions. By way of non-limiting example, one suitable acidic solution believed to contain a sufficient quantity of titanium ions, initially or through sequential addition during the application step, is known as ALODINE® 2040, which is ~~a non-phosphating solution including titanium ions derived from titanium fluoride acid, preferably present in an amount of between about 5.0% to about 20.0% of the acidic solution. ALODINE® is a commercially available product from Henkel Surface Technologies (Madison Heights, Michigan).~~ The acidic solution utilized should provide a caustic passivation for the aluminum surface to be treated."